

THE ENVIRONMENTS where we live, work and play IMPACT OUR HEALTH

Children's Environmental Health

To reduce health risks posed to children, LLCHD urged people to bring two recently banned pesticides, Diazinon and Dursban, to any of the seven Household Hazardous Waste Collections held this year. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency banned these pesticides to protect children and the public's health. Children are more likely to be harmed by pesticide exposure because they eat more food, breathe more air, and drink more water than adults. Hundreds of families choose to participate in the collections making their homes safer for their children.

Asthma

A special public health report, *Asthma - A report to the Community of Lancaster County 2003*, was developed and published by a community coalition. Childhood asthma can be a frightening health problem affecting thousands of families in Lancaster County. Data gathered from public and private schools revealed that 3,400 children had been diagnosed with asthma. Common environmental asthma triggers include: secondhand smoke, pet dander, roaches, dust mites, mold and pesticides. Reducing exposure to these triggers would result in many fewer asthma attacks, healthier children, and fewer lost school and workdays.

Outdoor Air Quality

Each year, the American Lung Association assesses the toll that ozone air pollution places on our nation's ability to breathe. Ozone, the main ingredient in smog, is an irritant to the lungs. *The American Lung Association State of the Air: 2003* gives Lincoln "A's" and rated the City as one of the eleven cleanest metropolitan areas in the nation for ozone related air quality.

Lincoln and Lancaster County also enjoy low levels of other air pollutants, including particulate matter (soot) and carbon monoxide. Particulate matter (PM) is especially harmful to people with asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (i.e. chronic bronchitis and emphysema) or heart disease.



HOW CLOSE ARE THEY
TO **YOUR** CHILDREN?

**DURSBAN &
DIAZINON**
ARE BANNED
CHEMICALS...



**"Sustain and improve air, land
and water quality"...priority goal,
2003 Strategic Plan**

Preventing Pollution to our Lakes and Streams



LLCHD and Public Works and Utilities joined forces to emphasize the importance of not dumping anything into the storm drain system. Federal, State and local laws prohibit dumping to storm drains because they lead directly to streams and lakes. Dumping paint, oil or other material into the storm drain causes pollution, killing fish and other wildlife, and potentially contaminating groundwater.

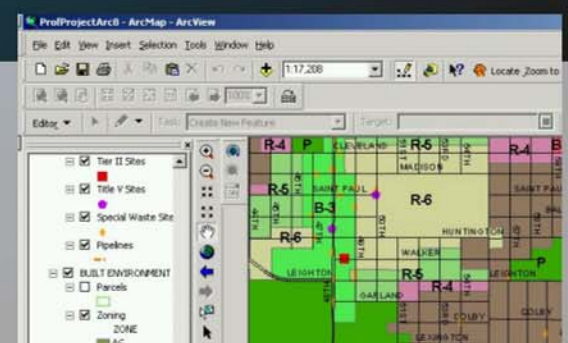
Water Quality

**Norris students
get a grade of
Job "Well" Done
in Innovative Project**



Source: The Nebline, June 2003

Students at Norris and Raymond Central will test and map over 600 wells in Lancaster County through the "Safe Water Tomorrow Through Pollution Prevention Today" program coordinated by the LLCHD Water Quality Program. Well owners are encouraged to bring water samples to community events called "Test Your Well Nights." Using special equipment, students test the water and provide information on Nitrates and on preventing groundwater pollution. In a related effort, old wells in need of decommissioning are identified by students through "Find A Well." Natural Resources District cost share programs are used to "plug" these old wells that pose both safety risks to people and animals and pollution risk to the groundwater. These efforts have been grant funded through the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality and the Environmental Trust Fund.



GIS for Land
Use Planning

Smart Growth for a Healthier Community

The LLCHD reviews all major land use changes to assure that the public's health is protected. LLCHD advocates "Smart Growth" choices and utilizes the latest technology, such as GIS, to help make science based recommendations on health risks. Examples of concerns are the location of residential developments too close to industrial tracts of land where hazardous materials are used along railroad tracks, or near large underground pipelines carrying flammable or hazardous materials. Acreage developments are reviewed to assure water will be available and that sewage systems can be installed.